

Message Text

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12

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FM USDEL ALEXANDRIA

TO DA WASHDC/DAMI-FLT

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

USDAO CAIRO

JCS

OSD/ISA

DIA AH-I

USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALEXANDRIA 0035

FROM DAY

1. PRIOR TO FIRST KISSINGER-SADAT MEETING AT MAMOURA AUGUST 22 AMBASSADOR QUERIED GENERAL GAMASSY ABOUT CANCELLATION OF NASSR ACADEMY VISIT. AMBASSADOR STATED HE REALIZED IT WAS, OF COURSE, ENTIRELY MINWAR'S DECISION, BUT THAT AMBASSADOR HAD SPECIAL INTEREST IN PROJECT AND HAD PERSONALLY MADE STRONG PITCH IN FAVOR OF VISIT. POLICY DECISION HAD BEEN MADE AND US SIDE WELCOMED EGYPTIAN DEL. GAMASSY STATED FLATLY, "WELL, THERE WAS NO SCHEDULE ARRANGED SO I CANCELLED THE TRIP." AMBASSADOR RESPONDED THAT WAS NOT CORRECT. VISITATIONS OF US SENIOR SERVICE SCHOOLS HAD BEEN ARRANGED FOR ALTHOUGH PRECISE DATES WERE STILL UNDER DISCUSSION. HENCE THERE MUST BE SOME MISUNDERSTANDING. GAMASSY CONTINUED TO INSIST THIS NOT SO. AT THAT POINT AMBASSADOR WAS REQUIRED TO BREAK AWAY FOR KISSINGER-SADAT MEETING AND SUBJECT WAS DROPPED.

2. LATER AT DINNER AMBASSADOR AGAIN MENTIONED
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SUBJECT WITH GAMASSY STATING HE DID NOT WISH TO

BELABOR THE PROBLEM BUT HE CONSIDERED THE VISIT IMPORTANT AND DID NOT WANT CANCELLATION TO BE RESULT OF MIS-UNDERSTANDING OR MISIMPRESSION. GAMASSY AGAIN SAID THERE WAS NO SCHEDULE AND AMBASSADOR AGAIN ASSURED HIM THERE WAS. GAMASSY THEN STATED PERHAPS HIS INTELLIGENCE PEOPLE DID NOT GIVE HIM THE FULL VISIT INFORMATION AND AGREED TO THE IMPORTANCE OF THE VISIT. FURTHER, HE STATED HE AGREES THE VISIT IS IMPORTANT AND COULD PERHAPS BE RESCHEDULED AFTER PRESIDENT SADAT VISITS THE US.

3. COMMENT: OUR SCHEDULE STATED THE DATES 2-15 SEPTEMBER AND A LIST OF PLACES TO VISIT BUT NO DETAILED DATES AT EACH SERVICE SCHOOL, ETS. MOREOVER, THE MATTER OF ARRIVING TWO DAYS EARLY HAS NEVER BEEN RESPONDED TO BY DA. NEXT TIME WE DO THIS DRILL, RECOMMEND EXPEDITIOUS HANDLING RECOGNIZING EGYPTIAN SENSITIVITY TO WHAT IS OBVIOUSLY CONSIDERED A LACK OF RESPONSE ON OUR PART.SVENDSON

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